

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 04174 311620Z

70

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4174

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-80

TAGS: NATO, MCAP

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE FROM DRC CHAIRMAN (ASYG HUMPHREYS)
TO DRC MEMBERS CONCERNING PREPARATION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE
FOR THE NEW FORCE PLANNING PERIOD.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. DEFENCE MINISTERS AGREED AT THEIR MEETING ON
14TH JUNE THAT AN EARLY START SHOULD BE MADE ON THE PREPARATION
OF NEW MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE FOR NATO FORCE PLANNING FOR THE
PERIOD UP TO 1982, AND THAT THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE AS SPECIFIC
AS POSSIBLE. THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION
HAS DIRECTED THE DEFENCE REVIEW COMMITTEE TO BEGIN WORK
IMMEDIATELY. THE FINAL DOCUMENT WILL BE APPROVED BY DEFENCE
MINISTERS AT THEIR MEETING IN SPRING 1975, BUT IT HAS BEEN AGREED
THAT CERTAIN "KEY ELEMENTS" SHOULD BE SUBMITTED FOR THEIR
CONSIDERATION THIS DECEMBER.

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PAGE 02 NATO 04174 311620Z

2. MEMBERS MAY AT THIS STAGE WISH TO REMIND THEMSELVES
OF THE AIMS AND SCOPE OF THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AND ITS
PLACE IN THE NATO FORCE PLANNING CYCLE, AS SET OUT IN DPC/
D(71)10. THE GUIDANCE IS INTENDED TO REFLECT THE POLITICAL,

ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND MILITARY FACTORS WHICH COULD AFFECT NATO FORCES DURING THE PERIOD UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THE IMPACT OF THESE FACTORS ON NATO STRATEGY. IT SHOULD ALSO IDENTIFY BROAD POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONCRAINTS, SUGGEST PRIORITIES IN MILITARY PLANNING AND DRAW ATTENTION TO AREAS OF MAJOR CONCERN TO NATO. IT THUS PROVIDES THE BASIS OF THE FORCE PROPOSALS PREPARED BY EACH MAJOR NATO COMMANDER, AND FOR THE FOLLOWING STAGES OF THE FORCE PLANNING PROCESS.

3. IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE PREPARATION OF THE GUIDANCE WOULD DRAW LARGELY ON THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY APPRECIATIONS. THESE, HOWEVER, ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE IN FINAL FORM BEFORE 1ST OCTOBER AND 1ST NOVEMBER RESPECTIVELY. IT IS CLEAR THEREFORE THAT, INITIALLY AT LEAST, THE THREE DOCUMENTS WILL NEED TO PROCEED IN PARALLEL. IT IS MY INTENTION TO CIRCULATE A FIRST DRAFT OF THE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT, WHICH WILL CERTAINLY BE INCOMPLETE, AND MAY BE LITTLE MORE THAN AN OUTLINE, BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST, WITH A VIEW TO AN INITIAL DISCUSSION BY THE DRC IN THE SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER.

4. ONE OF THE CRITICAL SECTIONS OF THE GUIDANCE (AND CERTAINLY ONE OF THE "KEY ELEMENTS") WILL BE THAT DEALING WITH THE AVAILABILITY AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO DEFENCE. THE FORMULA ADOPTED FOR THE CURRENT GUIDANCE (PARAGRAPH 32 OF DPC/D(73)8) WAS RECOGNISED AT THE TIME TO BE UNSATISFACTORY, WAS FAR FROM SPECIFIC, AND WAS DISCREDITED AS A PLANNING ASSUMPTION WITHIN A FEW MONTHS OF BEING APPROVED BY MINISTERS. I WOULD THEREFORE BE GRATEFUL FOR SUGGESTIONS FROM DELEGATIONS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE FORMULATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE FIRST DRAFT.

5. DRAFT TEXTS OF THIS SECTION, PREFERABLY ENDORSED BY CAPITALS, SHOULD REACH ME IF POSSIBLE BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST; COPIES SHOULD BE SENT TO ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, THE ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE AND OUR SECRETARY. I WOULD ALSO BE GLAD OF ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS OF A GENERAL NATURE FOR TOPICS TO BE COVERED IN THE GUIDANCE. END TEXT. GOODBY
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PAGE 03 NATO 04174 311620Z

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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